

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 0417Z 071212Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /098 W  
-----085525 071215Z /53

R 070743Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4774  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 4172

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: EPMG MILITARY INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 1124

1. WHILE IT RISKY TO TRY TO ANTICIPATE MENGISTU IN MATTERS OF VITAL ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL INTEREST, WE INCLINED DOUBT THAT ETHIOPIA HAS ANY IMMEDIATE MILITARY INTENTIONS AGAINST SOMALIA. DESPITE CURRENT LEVEL OF INVECTIVE AND INCREASE OF INSURGENT ACTIVITIES IN OGADEN, FACT REMAINS THAT BULK OF ETHIOPIAN ARMY IS STILL CONCENTRATED IN NORTH, AND THAT MILITIA FORCE BEING TRAINED NEAR ADDIS AND SO PROUDLY DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC 11 DAYS AGO, IS STILL IN CAMP TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. APART FROM AIR FORCE THEREFORE (WHICH ALSO HAS MISSIONS IN NORTH) STRENGTH OF ANY POSSIBLE STRIKING FORCE IN OGADEN IS LIMITED, AND IN ANY CASE MOST OF THE TROOPS THERE

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HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL COPING WITH INSURGENTS.

2. IN ADDITION, MENGISTU VERY PROBABLY CONSIDERS HIMSELF ON GOOD DIPLOMATIC WICKET FOR TIME BEING AND IS UNLIKELY THROW AWAY LIGHTLY WHAT HE NO DOUBT CONSIDERS BE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION UNLESS SITUATION IN OGADEN DETERIORATES TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT, DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE OR NO, HE

CONCLUDES HE MUST ACT MILITARILY AGAINST SOMALIA. THUS, SOMALIA/KENYA CLASH CERTAINLY CAME AS WINDFALL TO ETHIOPIANS AND GAVE IMPORTANT SUBSTANCE TO HIS REMARKS ABOUT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SANCTITY OF OAU CHARTER AT LIBREVILLE, BOTH OF WHICH COMMAND STRONG SUPPORT IN BLACK AFRICA REGARDLESS OF HOW ONE COUNTRY VIEWS ANOTHER FOR OTHER REASONS.

3. POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT IS THERE, BUT UNLESS SOMALIS ESCALATE LEVEL OF INFILTRATION TO POINT WHERE MENGISTU PERCEIVES ETHIOPIA IS IN SERIOUS DANGER OF PERMANENTLY LOSING LARGE CHUNKS OF OGADEN AND/OR LOSING EITHER OF MAJOR TOWNS OF DIRE DAWA OR HARAR, OR TO POINT WHERE MENGISTU BELIEVES HE CAN CONCLUSIVELY SHOW THAT NUMBER OF SOMALI INFILTRATORS CAN REASONABLY BE LABELLED AS INVASION, WE THINK HE WILL BE SLOW TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE ACTION OUTSIDE OF ETHIOPIA'S BORDERS.  
TIENKEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO  
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